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2000-2001 Illinois Trapper Report



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Illinois Natural History Survey

Report prepared by
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Results of the 2000-2001 Illinois Trapper Survey

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^a WMU = Wildlife Management Unit

^b FMZ = Furbearer Management Zones

2000-2001 Illinois Trapper Survey

Objective

To survey furbearer (12 species of mammals) trappers annually to determine their activities, harvests, characteristics, attitudes, and opinions in Illinois.

Abstract

A stratified random sample of 892 persons who purchased a 2000 resident Illinois trapping license was surveyed after the furbearer trapping season. The U.S. Postal Service was successful in reaching 857 of the licensees, 621 (72%) of whom returned usable questionnaires. Trapping license sales declined 9% from 1999 (2,345 licenses) to 2000 (2,126 licenses). Trappers had traps set for an average of 23.4 days during the 2000-2001 season, and they harvested an estimated 96,480 furbearers (down 18% from the 118,326 harvested in 1999-2000). Data are provided for temporal distribution of trapping activities, types of traps used, participation in trapper education programs, and fur hunting by trappers. The opinions of trappers as to changes in furbearer populations and trapping effort are also presented, as is a profile of personal characteristics of trappers.

Methods

A stratified random sample of 892 resident Illinois trappers was selected from sales of the 2000 trapper license. Trappers were stratified by county of residence to form proportionate samples by wildlife management units and furbearer management zones (Fig. 1). Each trapper was mailed an 8-page questionnaire on May 16, 2001. Nonrespondents were mailed a reminder postcard 14 days after the survey questionnaire. Remaining nonrespondents were mailed a

second questionnaire June 8. Trappers not responding to the previous mailings were mailed a second postcard reminder 17 days later. The initial sample was reduced to 857 due to incorrect address, no forwarding address, or death.

Results

A total of 621 (72%) license purchasers responded to the survey. Using procedures adopted by Anderson and Campbell (1992), we calculated participation and harvest for all furbearer species in Illinois (Tables 1-29). The results were organized by wildlife management units, furbearer management zones, and statewide, for presentation.

Trapper Participation

Of the 621 license purchasers in our sample, 495 (79.9%) set traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season. Active trappers had traps set for an average of 23.4 days (or nights) (Fig. 2). The maximum number of days a trapper could have legally trapped was 147. However, only 11% of the respondents set traps for >45 days and only 21% set traps for >30 days.

Participation during the 2000-2001 season was highest among raccoon (*Procyon lotor*) trappers, estimated at 1,397 trappers statewide (Table 1). Muskrat (*Ondatra zibethicus*) trapping was second in participation with 918 trappers, followed by opossum (*Didelphis virginiana*) (770 trappers) and beaver (*Castor canadensis*) (698 trappers). Trapping activities were intermediate for mink (*Mustela vison*) (633 trappers), coyote (*Canis latrans*) (514 trappers), red fox (*Vulpes vulpes*) (308 trappers), and striped skunk (*Mephitis mephitis*) (301 trappers), and low for badger

(*Taxidea taxus*) (38 trappers), gray fox (*Urocyon ceneroargenteus*) (31 trappers), and weasel (*Mustela frenata* and *nivalis*) (3 trappers).

Harvest

Raccoons represented the furbearer species harvested most by trappers in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season, when an estimated 49,076 raccoons were taken (Table 1). This harvest was slightly lower than the estimated 51,971 raccoons trapped in 1999-2000. Muskrats (22,677) were the second-most harvested species in 2000-2001, followed by opossums (10,847), beavers (7,026), and coyotes (2,523). The number of muskrats harvested averaged 24.7 per trapper and ranged from 1 to 214 (Fig. 3). Similarly, the number of raccoons harvested averaged 35.1 per trapper and ranged from 1 to 473 (Fig. 4).

Changes in Participation, Harvest, and Populations

The number of Illinois residents participating in trapping decreased 9% from 1999-2000 (2,345 trapping licenses) to 2000-2001 (2,126 trapping licenses). Average harvest per successful trapper decreased for all species categories except gray fox and weasel. The season harvest decreased for all species categories. Total trapper harvest (all species combined) decreased from 118,326 animals in 1999-2000 to 96,480 animals in 2000-2001, a decline of 18% (Table 2).

When asked to express their opinions of changes in furbearer populations from 1999-2000 to 2000-2001, pluralities of trappers thought coyote numbers were up, raccoon and beaver numbers were unchanged, and muskrat numbers were down (Table 30). A plurality said they did not know the status of the red fox population.

Trapping Activities

Temporal Distribution of Trapping. The majority of trappers (79%) trapped on both week days and weekends in 2000-2001, although 16% trapped only on weekends (Table 31). Only 18% of the trappers were active throughout the season. The most frequent reasons for not trapping the entire season were "weather conditions" (50%) and "lack of time, other obligations, work" (27%). Most trappers (72%) engage in their sport by themselves (Table 32). Many trappers spend a considerable amount of time engaged in trapping related activities such as scouting for furbearer sign, maintaining trapping equipment, and learning or practicing new trapping techniques (Table 33).

Types of Traps. The most common type of trap used by Illinois trappers in 2000-2001 was the Conibear or killer-type trap. The Conibear was used by 79% of the trappers, and it represented 46% of all traps set (Table 34). Steel jaw leg-hold traps were also popular, being used by 75% of the trappers and representing 44% of all traps set in 2000-2001. Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps represented only 1% of the traps set. Although cage-type live traps were used by 38% of the trappers, these traps accounted for only 5% of all traps.

Trapper Education. Most trappers (77%) have never taken a trapper education course (Table 35). Of those who took a course, most (54%) did so because they wanted to take it. One-third (34%) said they were required to take a trapper education course.

About one-third (35%) of trappers attended trapper association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months (Table 36). Of those who attended such meetings, 57% attended 1 meeting and 24% attended 2 meetings.

More than one-half (57%) of the trappers have introduced another person to trapping in the past 5 years (Table 37). The "new" trapper was most likely to be a youth under 19 years of age and a friend (54%) or a member of the immediate family (47%).

Trapping Effort. A plurality (39%) of trappers indicated their trapping effort has decreased in the last 5 years (Table 38). Those who had increased their trapping effort credited it primarily to "availability of land" and "increase in free time" (Table 39). The increased trapping effort was most frequently directed at raccoons (Table 40). Conversely, those who had decreased their trapping efforts usually blamed "low fur prices" and/or "lack of time" (Table 41). The decreased effort was most commonly withdrawn from muskrats (Table 42). The trappers felt that "low prices for pelts" was the single greatest problem that contributes to the decline in trapping (Table 43).

The species that trappers enjoyed trapping most was raccoon by a wide margin (Table 44). Second most enjoyable was beaver, followed in descending order by muskrat, mink, coyote, and foxes.

Observation of River Otters and Bobcats. Participating trappers were asked whether they saw river otter or otter sign, and bobcat or bobcat sign, in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season. Otter or their sign was reported for 56 counties, which were more or less scattered throughout the state (Fig. 5). Bobcat or their sign was reported for 44 counties, which were concentrated in the southern half of the state and along the Illinois and upper Mississippi rivers (Fig. 6).

Fur Hunting by Trappers

A total of 231 trappers (37% of licensees sampled) reported hunting furbearers with gun and/or dogs in 2000-2001 (Table 45). This equates to a statewide total of 791 hunting trappers, and their total harvest was estimated to be 10,481 pelts or an average of 13.3 pelts per hunter. More trappers hunted raccoon than any other species. Coyote ranked second in popularity.

The hunting method of choice for taking coyotes involved the use of a "predator call". This method was used by 64% of the trapping hunters (Table 46). "Tracking and stalking (no dogs or calls)" ranked second (51% of trapping hunters). Thirteen percent of the trapping hunters have been denied access to hunt coyotes on land they previously hunted (Table 47). Only 4% of the trapping hunters own coyote hounds (Table 48).

General Information

During the 2000-2001 season, Illinois trappers were almost all male (99%), averaged 45 years of age, and had lived in the state for 43 years (Table 49). They began trapping at an average age of 16 years and had trapped for 24 years. They were probably (62%) the only member of the family who trapped. Their household income was most likely between \$30,000 and \$44,999. Seventy percent of the trappers buy a trapping permit every year and another 20% buy a trapping permit in most years (Table 50). Slightly more than one-third (37%) belong to a trapper association or organization (Table 51). The Illinois Trappers Association and the National Trappers Association were the 2 most popular organizations chosen for membership. The distribution of trappers surveyed is provided by county in Table 52.

References

Anderson, W.L., and L.k. Campbell. 1992. Fur hunter/trapper survey, 1990-91. Ill. Dep. Conserv., Fed. Aid in Wildl. restoration Projects W-99-R-3 and W-112-R-1, Study 1, Job 2, Job Completion Rep. 71pp.

Table 1. Summary of statewide data from post-season mail survey of resident trappers in Illinois, 2000-01
(n=621).

Species	Estimated Number of Trappers	Percent of Licensed Trappers	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Percent Sold	Estimated Total Sold
Muskrat	918	43.16	24.71	22,677	91.98	20,859
Mink	633	29.79	3.48	2,205	89.44	1,972
Raccoon	1,397	65.71	35.13	49,076	92.88	45,580
Opossum	770	36.24	14.08	10,847	46.59	5,054
Red fox	308	14.49	2.89	890	80.00	712
Gray fox	31	1.45	2.33	72	90.48	65
Beaver	698	32.85	10.06	7,026	83.04	5,834
Skunk	301	14.17	3.70	1,116	38.65	431
Weasel	3	0.16	2.00	7	100.00	7
Coyote	514	24.16	4.91	2,523	72.86	1,839
Badger	38	1.77	1.09	41	66.67	27

Table 2. Change in number of successful trappers and harvest by species in Illinois.
Comparisons are between 1999 and 2000 license years.

Species	Successful Trappers		%	Total Harvest		%
	1999	2000	Change	1999	2000	Change
Muskrat	1,080	918	-15.0	33,447	22,677	32.2
Mink	733	633	-13.6	3,033	2,205	27.3
Raccoon	1,435	1,397	-2.6	51,971	49,076	-5.6
Opossum	774	770	-0.5	12,734	10,847	14.8
Red Fox	283	308	8.8	1,094	890	18.6
Gray Fox	48	31	-35.4	99	72	27.3
Beaver	886	698	-21.2	9,704	7,026	27.6
Skunk	300	301	0.3	1,138	1,116	-1.9
Weasel	17	3	-82.4	27	7	74.1
Coyote	539	514	-4.6	5,021	2,523	49.8
Badger	27	38	40.7	58	41	29.3

Table 3. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=268).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	116	12.69	1.24	37.76	4,396	46.78
Northeast Moraine	45	4.85	0.54	22.23	990	11.96
Mississippi Border-North	48	5.22	0.61	17.29	829	10.56
Mississippi Border-South	116	12.69	0.85	23.71	2,760	20.18
Western Prairie/Forest	110	11.94	0.76	22.84	2,503	17.36
Central Sand Prairie	27	2.99	0.66	37.50	1,027	24.77
Grand Prairie	253	27.61	0.48	26.38	6,684	12.70
Southern Plain	147	16.04	0.62	17.14	2,523	10.64
Wabash Border	34	3.73	0.51	17.80	609	9.04
Shawnee Hills	7	0.75	0.13	9.00	62	1.18
Unknown	14	1.49	..	21.50	294	..
Statewide	918	100.00	0.63	24.71	22,677	15.52

Table 4. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=185).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	75	11.89	0.80	3.27	247	2.62
Northeast Moraine	27	4.32	0.33	3.00	82	0.99
Mississippi Border-North	31	4.86	0.39	1.78	55	0.70
Mississippi Border-South	65	10.27	0.48	4.05	264	1.93
Western Prairie/Forest	65	10.27	0.45	3.00	195	1.35
Central Sand Prairie	14	2.16	0.33	3.25	45	1.07
Grand Prairie	175	27.57	0.33	3.45	603	1.15
Southern Plain	127	20.00	0.53	4.38	555	2.34
Wabash Border	34	5.41	0.51	2.50	86	1.27
Shawnee Hills	10	1.62	0.20	5.00	51	0.98
Unknown	10	1.62	..	2.33	24	..
Statewide	633	100.00	0.43	3.48	2,205	1.51

Table 5. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=408).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	171	12.25	1.82	45.12	7,725	82.18
Northeast Moraine	68	4.90	0.83	57.15	3,914	47.31
Mississippi Border-North	96	6.86	1.22	42.93	4,116	52.44
Mississippi Border-South	158	11.27	1.15	31.37	4,941	36.13
Western Prairie/Forest	154	11.03	1.07	41.04	6,324	43.85
Central Sand Prairie	58	4.17	1.40	42.06	2,448	59.03
Grand Prairie	366	26.23	0.70	31.22	11,440	21.74
Southern Plain	253	18.14	1.07	27.65	7,006	29.53
Wabash Border	45	3.19	0.66	16.38	729	10.82
Shawnee Hills	17	1.23	0.33	21.20	363	6.96
Unknown	10	0.74	..	7.00	72	..
Statewide	1,397	100.00	0.96	35.13	49,076	33.60

Table 6. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=225).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	96	12.44	1.02	14.18	1,359	14.46
Northeast Moraine	41	5.33	0.50	25.25	1,037	12.54
Mississippi Border-North	58	7.56	0.74	15.71	914	11.65
Mississippi Border-South	82	10.67	0.60	6.88	565	4.13
Western Prairie/Forest	96	12.44	0.66	20.96	2,010	13.94
Central Sand Prairie	41	5.33	0.99	6.92	284	6.85
Grand Prairie	202	26.22	0.38	11.46	2,315	4.40
Southern Plain	127	16.44	0.53	17.62	2,232	9.41
Wabash Border	14	1.78	0.20	3.25	45	0.66
Shawnee Hills	10	1.33	0.20	7.67	79	1.51
Unknown	3	0.44	..	2.00	7	..
Statewide	770	100.00	0.53	14.08	10,847	7.43

Table 7. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=90).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	31	10.00	0.33	6.67	205	2.19
Northeast Moraine	7	2.22	0.08	2.50	17	0.21
Mississippi Border-North	21	6.67	0.26	1.50	31	0.39
Mississippi Border-South	27	8.89	0.20	4.63	127	0.93
Western Prairie/Forest	41	13.33	0.28	1.50	62	0.43
Central Sand Prairie	7	2.22	0.17	1.00	7	0.17
Grand Prairie	106	34.44	0.20	2.84	301	0.57
Southern Plain	55	17.78	0.23	1.75	96	0.40
Wabash Border	7	2.22	0.10	3.00	21	0.30
Shawnee Hills	7	2.22	0.13	3.50	24	0.46
Unknown	0	0.00	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	308	100.00	0.21	2.89	890	0.61

Table 8. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=9).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Northeast Moraine	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-North	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	10	33.33	0.08	1.67	17	0.13
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Grand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Southern Plain	10	33.33	0.04	1.00	10	0.04
Wabash Border	7	22.22	0.10	5.00	34	0.51
Shawnee Hills	3	11.11	0.07	3.00	10	0.20
Unknown	0	0.00	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	31	100.00	0.02	2.33	72	0.05

Table 9. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=204).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	58	8.33	0.62	6.53	380	4.04
Northeast Moraine	45	6.37	0.54	9.15	407	4.93
Mississippi Border-North	55	7.84	0.70	8.31	455	5.80
Mississippi Border-South	86	12.25	0.63	6.84	586	4.28
Western Prairie/Forest	82	11.76	0.57	12.50	1,027	7.12
Central Sand Prairie	34	4.90	0.83	12.70	435	10.49
Grand Prairie	195	27.94	0.37	12.26	2,393	4.55
Southern Plain	86	12.25	0.36	9.52	815	3.43
Wabash Border	31	4.41	0.46	6.00	185	2.74
Shawnee Hills	21	2.94	0.39	15.67	322	6.17
Unknown	7	0.98	..	3.00	21	..
Statewide	698	100.00	0.48	10.06	7,026	4.81

Table 10. Summary of skunk trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=88).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	34	11.36	0.36	3.10	106	1.13
Northeast Moraine	21	6.82	0.25	2.50	51	0.62
Mississippi Border-North	24	7.95	0.31	4.14	99	1.27
Mississippi Border-South	14	4.55	0.10	3.00	41	0.30
Western Prairie/Forest	51	17.05	0.36	4.87	250	1.73
Central Sand Prairie	7	2.27	0.17	1.50	10	0.25
Grand Prairie	96	31.82	0.18	3.25	312	0.59
Southern Plain	45	14.77	0.19	3.08	137	0.58
Wabash Border	3	1.14	0.05	2.00	7	0.10
Shawnee Hills	3	1.14	0.07	29.00	99	1.90
Unknown	3	1.14	..	1.00	3	..
Statewide	301	100.00	0.21	3.70	1,116	0.76

Table 11. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=1).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Northeast Moraine	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	3	100.00	0.03	2.33	7	0.05
Western Prairie/Forest	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Grand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Southern Plain	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Unknown	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	..
Statewide	3	100.00	0.00	2.33	7	0.00

Table 12. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=150).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	48	9.33	0.51	7.50	360	3.83
Northeast Moraine	24	4.67	0.29	6.14	147	1.78
Mississippi Border-North	41	8.00	0.52	4.08	168	2.14
Mississippi Border-South	38	7.33	0.28	6.36	240	1.75
Western Prairie/Forest	86	16.67	0.59	4.72	404	2.80
Central Sand Prairie	24	4.67	0.58	3.86	92	2.23
Grand Prairie	154	30.00	0.29	3.80	586	1.11
Southern Plain	75	14.67	0.32	3.27	247	1.04
Wabash Border	17	3.33	0.25	7.40	127	1.88
Shawnee Hills	7	1.33	0.13	22.50	154	2.95
Unknown	0	0.00	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	514	100.00	0.35	4.91	2,523	1.73

Table 13. Summary of badger trapper and harvest data by wildlife management units in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=11).

Wildlife Management Unit	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
Northwest Hills	14	36.36	0.15	1.25	17	0.18
Northeast Moraine	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-North	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Mississippi Border-South	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Western Prairie/Forest	3	9.09	0.02	1.00	3	0.02
Central Sand Prairie	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Grand Prairie	17	45.45	0.03	1.00	17	0.03
Southern Plain	3	9.09	0.01	1.00	3	0.01
Wabash Border	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Shawnee Hills	0	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00
Unknown	0	0.00	..	0.00	0	..
Statewide	38	100.00	0.03	1.09	41	0.03

Table 14. Statewide sample sizes for post-season mail survey of resident fur trappers in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=621).

Species	Number of Successful Trappers In Sample	Percent Successful Trappers	Season Harvest by Successful Trappers in Sample
Muskrat	268	43.16	6,623
Mink	185	29.79	644
Raccoon	408	65.70	14,333
Opossum	225	36.23	3,168
Red fox	90	14.49	260
Gray fox	9	1.45	21
Beaver	204	32.85	2,052
Striped skunk	88	14.17	326
Weasel	1	0.16	2
Coyote	150	24.15	737
Badger	11	1.77	12

Table 15. Confidence intervals (95%) for estimated number of trappers, average season harvest, and total trapper harvest by species in Illinois, 2000-01 (n=621).

Species	Total Estimated Trappers			Estimated Average Season Bag			Total Estimated Harvest		
Muskrat	918	±	85	24.71	±	4.02	22,677	±	5,010
Mink	633	±	78	3.48	±	0.61	2,205	±	662
Raccoon	1,397	±	81	35.13	±	5.32	49,076	±	7,558
Opossum	770	±	82	14.08	±	3.08	10,847	±	3,601
Red fox	308	±	60	2.89	±	1.05	890	±	828
Gray fox	31	±	20	2.33	±	1.13	72	±	294
Beaver	698	±	80	10.06	±	1.77	7,026	±	1,988
Skunk	301	±	60	3.70	±	0.99	1,116	±	775
Weasel	3	±	7	2.00	±	0.00	7	±	0
Coyote	514	±	73	4.91	±	1.20	2,523	±	1,188
Badger	38	±	23	1.09	±	0.18	41	±	51

Table 16. Distribution of furbearer harvest among successful trappers in Illinois, 2000-01 season. Sample sizes are listed below each species.

Total	Percentage of Successful Trappers										
	Muskrat 268	Mink 185	Raccoon 408	Opossum 225	Red Fox 90	Gray Fox 9	Beaver 204	Striped Skunk 88	Weasel 1	Coyote 150	Badger 11
1	6.7	35.7	3.9	7.1	46.7	55.6	12.7	35.2	0.0	29.3	90.9
2	6.0	23.2	4.4	10.2	24.4	0.0	14.7	26.1	100.0	19.3	9.1
3	5.6	14.6	4.9	8.9	11.1	22.2	10.3	10.2	0.0	13.3	0.0
4	4.5	3.8	5.4	7.6	3.3	0.0	8.8	3.4	0.0	7.3	0.0
5	4.5	5.4	4.9	12.0	1.1	22.2	6.4	10.2	0.0	4.7	0.0
6	7.1	4.3	2.9	6.2	5.6	0.0	5.4	3.4	0.0	5.3	0.0
7	2.2	3.2	2.0	4.0	2.2	0.0	2.9	1.1	0.0	2.7	0.0
8	1.9	1.6	2.0	3.1	2.2	0.0	3.9	2.3	0.0	3.3	0.0
9	1.1	1.6	1.5	1.8	0.0	0.0	2.5	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
10	7.1	0.5	5.6	5.3	1.1	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	1.3	0.0
11	0.7	1.1	0.5	2.2	1.1	0.0	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.7	0.0
12	3.4	1.6	2.9	4.4	0.0	0.0	2.5	1.1	0.0	2.0	0.0
13	2.2	0.0	0.7	0.4	0.0	0.0	1.0	1.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
14	1.9	0.0	1.7	1.3	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.0
15	3.4	0.5	3.4	2.2	0.0	0.0	3.4	2.3	0.0	2.0	0.0
16-20	6.0	2.2	9.3	8.0	0.0	0.0	4.9	2.3	0.0	3.4	0.0
21-25	5.9	0.0	6.4	4.9	0.0	0.0	3.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
>25	29.9	0.5	37.5	10.2	1.1	0.0	9.8	1.1	0.0	1.3	0.0

Table 17. Summary of muskrat trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=268).

Area	Estimated Number of		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
	Trappers	(%)				Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	534	58.2	0.65	27.79	± 8.35	14,843	65.5	18.14
South Zone	370	40.3	0.58	20.39	± 5.46	7,540	33.2	11.74
Unknown	14	1.5	..	21.50	± 5.47	294	1.3	..
Statewide	918	100.0	0.63	24.71	± 5.52	22,677	100.0	15.52

Table 18. Summary of mink trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=185).

Area	Estimated Number of		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
	Trappers	(%)				Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	353	55.7	0.43	2.94	± 0.96	1,037	47.0	1.27
South Zone	270	42.7	0.42	4.23	± 1.16	1,144	51.9	1.78
Unknown	10	1.6	..	2.33	± 1.17	24	1.1	..
Statewide	633	100.0	0.43	3.48	± 0.73	2,205	100.0	1.51

Table 19. Summary of raccoon trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=408).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	(%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	825	59.1	1.01	39.43 ± 8.34	32,538	66.3	39.76
South Zone	562	40.2	0.87	29.32 ± 6.31	16,466	33.6	25.63
Unknown	10	0.7	..	7.00 ± 6.32	72	0.1	..
Statewide	1,397	100.0	0.96	35.13 ± 5.76	49,076	100.0	33.60

Table 20. Summary of opossum trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=225).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers	(%)	Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest	(%)	Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	473	61.4	0.58	15.31 ± 5.48	7,235	66.7	8.84
South Zone	294	38.2	0.46	12.24 ± 5.84	3,605	33.2	5.61
Unknown	3	0.4	..	2.00 ± 5.85	7	0.1	..
Statewide	770	100.0	0.53	14.08 ± 3.99	10,847	100.0	7.43

Table 21. Summary of red fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=90).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	199	64.4	0.24	3.02	± 3.17	599	67.3	0.73
South Zone	110	35.6	0.17	2.66	± 1.10	291	32.7	0.45
Unknown	0	0.0	..	0.00	+ 0.00	0	0.0	..
Statewide	308	100.0	0.21	2.89	± 1.85	890	100.0	0.61

Table 22. Summary of gray fox trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=9).

Area	Estimated Number of		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
	Trappers	(%)		Catch		Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	0	0.0	0.00	0.00	± 5.88	0	0.0	0.00
South Zone	31	100.0	0.05	2.33	± 0.79	72	100.0	0.11
Unknown	0	0.0	..	0.00	± 0.00	0	0.0	..
Statewide	31	100.0	0.02	2.33	± 0.97	72	100.0	0.05

Table 23. Summary of beaver trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=204).

Area	Estimated Number of		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
	Trappers	(%)			Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	431	61.8	0.53	10.13 ± 2.26	4,372	62.2	5.34
South Zone	260	37.3	0.41	10.12 ± 2.77	2,633	37.5	4.10
Unknown	7	1.0	..	3.00 ± 2.78	21	0.3	..
Statewide	698	100.0	0.48	10.06 ± 1.75	7,026	100.0	4.81

Table 24. Summary of skunk trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=88).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	223	73.9	0.27	3.65	± 1.06	811	72.7	0.99
South Zone	75	25.0	0.12	4.00	± 0.80	301	27.0	0.47
Unknown	3	1.1	..	1.00	± 0.81	3	0.3	..
Statewide	301	100.0	0.21	3.70	± 0.83	1,116	100.0	0.76

Table 25. Summary of weasel trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=1).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	0	0.0	0.00	0	± 0.94	0	0.0	0.00
South Zone	3	100.0	0.01	2.00	± 0.95	7	100.0	0.01
Unknown	0	0.0	..	0.00	± 0.00	0	0.0	..
Statewide	3	100.0	0.00	2.00	± 0.78	7	100.0	0.00

Table 26. Summary of coyote trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=150).

Area	Estimated Number of Trappers (%)		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch	Estimated Total Trapper Harvest (%)		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
North Zone	332	64.7	0.41	4.68 ± 3.64	1,554	61.6	1.90
South Zone	181	35.3	0.28	5.34 ± 4.21	969	38.4	1.51
Unknown	0	0.0	..	0.00 ± 0.00	0	0.0	..
Statewide	514	100.0	0.35	4.91 ± 2.73	2,523	100.0	1.73

Table 27. Summary of badger trapper and harvest data by furbearer management zones in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=11).

Area	Estimated Number of		Estimated Number of Trappers/100km ²	Average Season Catch		Estimated Total Trapper Harvest		Estimated Trapper Harvest/100km ²
	Trappers	(%)		Catch		Harvest	(%)	
North Zone	34	90.91	0.04	1.10	± 0.33	38	91.7	0.05
South Zone	3	9.09	0.01	1.00	± 7.84	3	8.3	0.01
Unknown	0	0.00	..	0.00	+ 0.00	0	0.0	..
Statewide	38	100.00	0.03	1.09	± 1.94	41	100.0	0.03

Table 28. The number of pelts sold by successful trappers (i.e., caught ≥ 1 animal) for 11 species of furbearers in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=621).

Species	Total Number of Pelts Sold	Pelts Sold in Illinois		Pelts Sold Outside Illinois	
		Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Muskrat	20,859	15,887	76.17	4,972	23.83
Mink	1,972	1,352	68.58	620	31.42
Raccoon	45,580	31,182	68.41	14,398	31.59
Opossum	5,054	2,808	55.56	2,246	44.44
Red fox	712	558	78.37	154	21.63
Grayfox	65	7	10.53	58	89.47
Beaver	5,834	2,821	48.36	3,013	51.64
Striped skunk	431	233	53.97	199	46.03
Weasel	7	0	0.00	7	100.00
Coyote	1,839	1,123	61.08	716	38.92
Badger	27	24	87.50	3	12.50
Total	120,891	94,506	78.17	26,385	21.83

Table 29. Frequency of active trappers by county in Illinois, 2000-01 season.

County Trapped	Number of Trappers Per County
Pike	17
Henry	15
Clinton, LaSalle, Ogle	13
Fayette, Whiteside	12
Fulton, JoDaviess, Madison, St. Clair, Shelby	11
Kankakee, Rock Island, Stephenson,	10
Knox, McHenry, Tazewell,	9
Adams, Kane, Mercer, Peoria,	8
Brown, Jefferson, Lee, Randolph, Warren, Will	7
Carroll, Christian, Effingham, Logan, Macoupin, Mason, Morgan, Perry	6
DeKalb, Hancock, Iroquois, Kendall, McDonough, Marion, Williamson, Woodford,	5
Bond, Bureau, Champaign, Coles, Henderson, Jackson, Lawrence, Montgomery, Vermilion, Wabash, Washington, Wayne	4
Cass, Clay, Crawford, Edwards, Grundy, Jasper, Jersey, Livingston, McLean, Massac, Richland, Scott, Winnebago	3
Boone, Clark, Cumberland, DeWitt, Greene, Macon, Monroe, Saline, Sangamon, Schuyler, Union, White	2
Calhoun, Cook, Gallatin, Marshall, Menard, Moultrie, Piatt, Pope, Pulaski, Stark	1
Alexander, Douglas, DuPage, Edgar, Ford, Franklin, Hamilton, Hardin, Johnson, Lake, Putnam	0
Unknown	5

Table 30. Assessments by fur trappers^a as to changes in furbearer populations from the 1999-00 season to 2000-01 season.

Species		Percentage of Trappers			Don't Know
		Higher	Unchanged	Lower	
Muskrat	(n=440)	13.6	30.7	35.0	20.7
Raccoon	(n=507)	33.8	46.0	11.0	9.2
Red fox	(n=401)	21.4	28.4	16.2	33.9
Beaver	(n=415)	24.6	39.8	10.4	25.3
Coyote	(n=410)	39.8	28.5	7.6	24.1

^aActive trappers.

Table 31. Temporal distribution of active trappers in Illinois, 2000-01 season.

Responses to the following questions:

“When do you do most of your trapping?”

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u>
	(n=491)
Weekends	16%
Weekdays	5%
Both	79%

“Did you trap throughout the entire season?”

	<u>Percent of Trappers</u>
	(n=495)
Yes	18%
No	82%

Reasons given for not trapping the entire season.

	<u>Number of Respondents^a</u>
Waited for furs to prime	14
Low prices	40
Weather conditions	206
Hunting other species (deer, etc.)	6
Lack of time, other obligations, work	112
No where to trap	2
Health	15
Other interest	5
Teaching a youth/son	2
Cannot sell the fur	2
Nuisance trapping only	2
Not enough furbearers/distemper killed off most of the raccoons	6
Do not want to deplete the population	3

^a Total respondents is greater than the number of trappers who did not trap throughout the season because some trappers stated more than one reason for not trapping.

Table 32. When you trap (setting and checking traps) do you usually do so:

Percent of Trappers	
(n=475)	
By yourself	72%
With a friend	8%
With a family member	20%

Table 33. Number of active trappers and the number of days they were engaged in trapping related activities in Illinois, 2000-01 season.

Activity	Number of Trappers	Number of Days
Scouting for furbearer sign	402	5,006
Maintaining trapping equipment	414	3,873
Learning or practicing new trapping techniques	203	5,228

Table 34. Types and number of traps set in Illinois, 2000-01 season.

Type of Trap	Trappers		Traps	
	Number	Percentage	Mean Per Owner	Percentage of Total
(n=495)				
Conibear or killer-type traps	392	79%	21.3	46%
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	372	75%	21.5	44%
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	16	3%	8.2	1%
Cage-type live traps	190	38%	4.3	5%
Snares	62	13%	9.7	3%
Others ^a	8	2%	21.0	1%

^a Others include EGG traps, Coon Cuffs, and Dog Proof foothold type traps.

Table 35. Percentage of trappers who have taken a formal trapper's education course.

Percent of Trappers	
(n=489)	
Yes	23%
No	77%

If "Yes," why?

(n=108)	
It was required	34%
I wanted to take it	54%
Other reasons ^a	12%

^aOther reasons included: to learn and gain personal knowledge, to become a trapper education instructor, to attend the class with my children and grandchildren.

Table 36. Percentage of active trappers who attended trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months (Illinois, 2000-01 season).

Attend Meetings	Percentage of Trappers
(n=493)	
Yes	35%
No	65%

The number of trapper association meetings and conventions attended per trapper during the 2000-01 season.

Percentage of Trappers	Number of Meetings Attended
57%	1
24%	2
9%	3
4%	4
2%	5
2%	6
1%	17
1%	20

Table 37. Have you introduced another person into trapping in the past 5 years?

	Percent of Trappers
	(n=489)
Yes	57%
No	43%
<u>If “Yes,” was this person a:</u>	
Friend	54% ^a
Member of your immediate family	47%
Member of your extended family	16%
<u>Was this person a youth under 19 years of age?</u>	
Yes	73%
No	27%

^a Total percentage is >100% because some trappers introduced more than one person into trapping.

Table 38. In the last five years, has your total trapping effort:

Trapping Effort	n	Percent of Trappers
Increased	144	30%
Stayed the same	153	31%
Decreased	187	39%

Table 39. If your total trapping effort increased the last five years, has it been due to:
(n=144)

Reason	Number of Respondents
Availability of land	81
Increased free time	75
More furbearers	50
Better equipment	42
The extra income trapping brings	38
Trapping partners	36
Better seasons/regulations	30
Better health/fitness	27
Other ^a	23

^aSee Appendix A

Table 40. If your trapping effort increased, which of the following
do you attempt to trap more now than 5 years ago? (n=144)

Species	Number of Respondents
Raccoons	102
Beaver	81
Coyotes	58
Muskrats	53
Mink	45
Foxes	34
Other ^a	4

^aIncludes opossum, skunk, and groundhog.

Table 41. If your total trapping effort decreased, has it been due to:
(n=187)

Reason	Number of Respondents
Low fur prices	123
Lack of time	90
Health problems	29
No land to trap on	23
Not enough furbearers	16
Too many regulations	15
Lack of financial resources for equipment	9
Lack of interest	8
Seasons too short	5
No one to trap with	3
Too much equipment needed	0
Other ^a	28

^aSee Appendix A

Table 42. If your trapping effort decreased, which of the following do you attempt to trap less now than 5 years ago? (n=187)

Species	Number of Respondents
Muskrats	98
Raccoons	82
Coyotes	81
Foxes	81
Mink	70
Beaver	65

Table 43. In your opinion, what do you feel is the single greatest problem that contributes to the decline in trapping? (n=621)

Problem	Number of Respondents
Low prices for pelts	328
Anti-trapping activists	102
Not enough time	65
Not enough land available for trapping	64
Land converted to other uses (housing developments, etc.)	57
Declining furbearer populations	21
Competing recreation uses of public land	21
Other ^a	29

^aSee Appendix A

Table 44. Which of the following species do you enjoy trapping most? (n=621)

Species	Number of Respondents
Raccoons	302
Beaver	173
Muskrats	132
Mink	118
Coyotes	115
Foxes	78
Other ^a	6

^aOthers include opossum, skunk, and groundhog.

Table 45. Summary of fur hunting activities by trappers^a in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=621).

Species	Number of Trappers In sample Hunting Species	Number of Furbearers Harvested by Hunting	Average Number Harvested by Hunting	Estimated Percent of All Trappers Hunting Species	Estimated Total Harvest by All Trappers Hunting Species
Raccoon	130	2,325	17.89	20.93	7,961
Opossum	19	78	4.11	3.06	267
Red fox	27	58	2.15	4.35	199
Gray fox	3	12	4.00	0.48	41
Striped skunk	6	8	1.33	0.97	27
Coyote	102	580	5.69	16.43	1,986
All species	231 ^{b,c}	3,061	13.25	37.20	10,481

^a Active and inactive trappers.^b Successful and unsuccessful hunters.^c Total for all species is less than the sum of the above values because many trappers hunted >1 species.

Table 46. Hunting methods and days afield for trappers who hunted coyote in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season (n= 102).

Hunting Method	Percent Using Method ^a	Range	Mean	Total Days
Predator Call	63.7%	1-35	9.89	643
Dogs	15.7%	2-50	18.88	302
Tracking and stalking (no dogs or calls)	51.0%	1-90	10.67	555
Other ^b	2.0%	N/A	2.00	4

^a Total percentage is greater than 100% because some trappers used more than one hunting method.

^b Others include standing and drives.

Table 47. Have you been denied access to hunt coyotes on land you previously hunted?

	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
Yes	34	13%
No	229	87%

If “Yes,” what county:

County	Number of Respondents	County	Number of Respondents
Adams	1	McDonough	1
Bond	1	McHenry	1
Brown	1	Madison	1
DeKalb	1	Mercer	1
DeWitt	1	Ogle	1
Fulton	1	Peoria	1
Henry	1	Pike	7
Iroquois	1	Richland	1
Jasper	1	Rock Island	1
JoDaviess	1	Vermilion	1
Kane	1	Warren	1
Knox	1	Wayne	1
Lawrence	1	Whiteside	3
Logan	2		

Table 48. Do you own any coyote hounds?

	Number of Respondents	Percent Response
Yes	12	4%
No	286	96%
<u>If “yes,” how many:</u>		
Number of hounds owned:		
1	3	25%
2	2	17%
3	2	17%
4	1	8%
5	3	25%
6	1	8%

Table 49. Some personal characteristics of the active trappers who participated in the 2000-01 Illinois Trapper Survey.

How many years have you trapped in Illinois? mean = 24 years

How old were you when you started trapping? mean = 16 years

Do other members of your family trap (n=610)?

Yes	38%
No	62%

How many years have you lived in Illinois? mean = 43 years

What is your gender (n=621)?

Male	99%
Female	1%

What is your approximate total (gross) household income (n=519)?

Less than \$15,000	9%
\$15,000 to \$29,999	23%
\$30,000 to \$44,999	29%
\$45,000 to \$59,999	16%
\$60,000 to \$74,999	13%
Over \$75,000	9%

Age in years. mean = 45

Table 50. How often do you buy a trapping permit (n=602)?

	Percent Trappers
Every year	70%
Most years	20%
Some but not most years	10%

Table 51. Do you belong to any trapper associations or organizations (n=606)?

	Percent Trappers
Yes	37%
No	63%

If "yes," please identify:

	Number of Trappers
East Central Furtakers	1
Furtakers of America	63
Illinois Trappers Association	161
National Trappers Association	119
Southeast Illinois Furtakers	2
North American Fur Trappers Association	7
National Wildlife Control Officers Association	3
Wild Fur Shippers Council	1
Illinois Trapper Predator & Caller Association	3

Table 52. Distribution of surveyed trappers (active and inactive) by county (Illinois, 2000-01 season).

County	Number of Trappers	County	Number of Trappers	County	Number of Trappers
Adams	9	Hardin	0	Morgan	6
Alexander	1	Henderson	5	Moultrie	3
Bond	8	Henry	20	Ogle	16
Boone	4	Iroquois	6	Peoria	11
Brown	8	Jackson	5	Perry	6
Bureau	4	Jasper	5	Piatt	2
Calhoun	2	Jefferson	6	Pike	19
Carroll	4	Jersey	2	Pope	2
Cass	4	JoDaviess	14	Pulaski	1
Champaign	6	Johnson	2	Putnam	1
Christian	8	Kane	5	Randolph	9
Clark	3	Kankakee	14	Richland	4
Clay	4	Kendall	6	Rock Island	10
Clinton	15	Knox	11	St. Clair	11
Coles	2	Lake	2	Saline	1
Cook	6	LaSalle	15	Sangamon	6
Crawford	5	Lawrence	4	Schuyler	3
Cumberland	6	Lee	10	Scott	3
DeKalb	8	Livingston	4	Shelby	9
DeWitt	2	Logan	10	Stark	3
Douglas	3	McDonough	8	Stephenson	13
DuPage	3	McHenry	9	Tazewell	12
Edgar	1	McLean	4	Union	3
Edwards	4	Macon	4	Vermilion	5
Effingham	9	Macoupin	7	Wabash	5
Fayette	12	Madison	9	Warren	11
Ford	0	Marion	6	Washington	6
Franklin	0	Marshall	0	Wayne	3
Fulton	13	Mason	5	White	2
Gallatin	1	Massac	2	Whiteside	16
Greene	4	Menard	2	Will	8
Grundy	7	Mercer	8	Williamson	4
Hamilton	0	Monroe	2	Winnebago	4
Hancock	8	Montgomery	5	Woodford	12

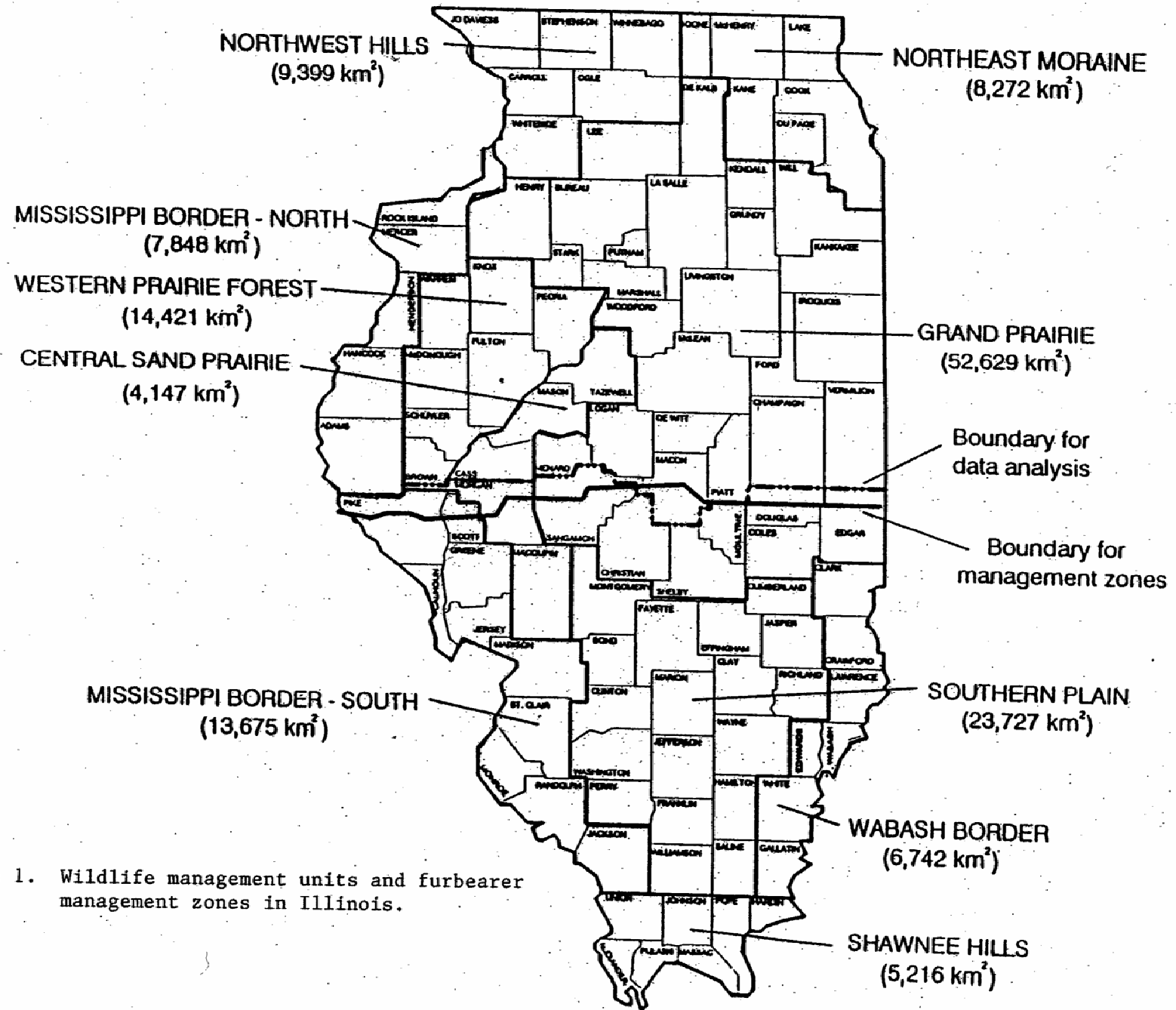


Figure 1. Wildlife management units and furbearer management zones in Illinois.

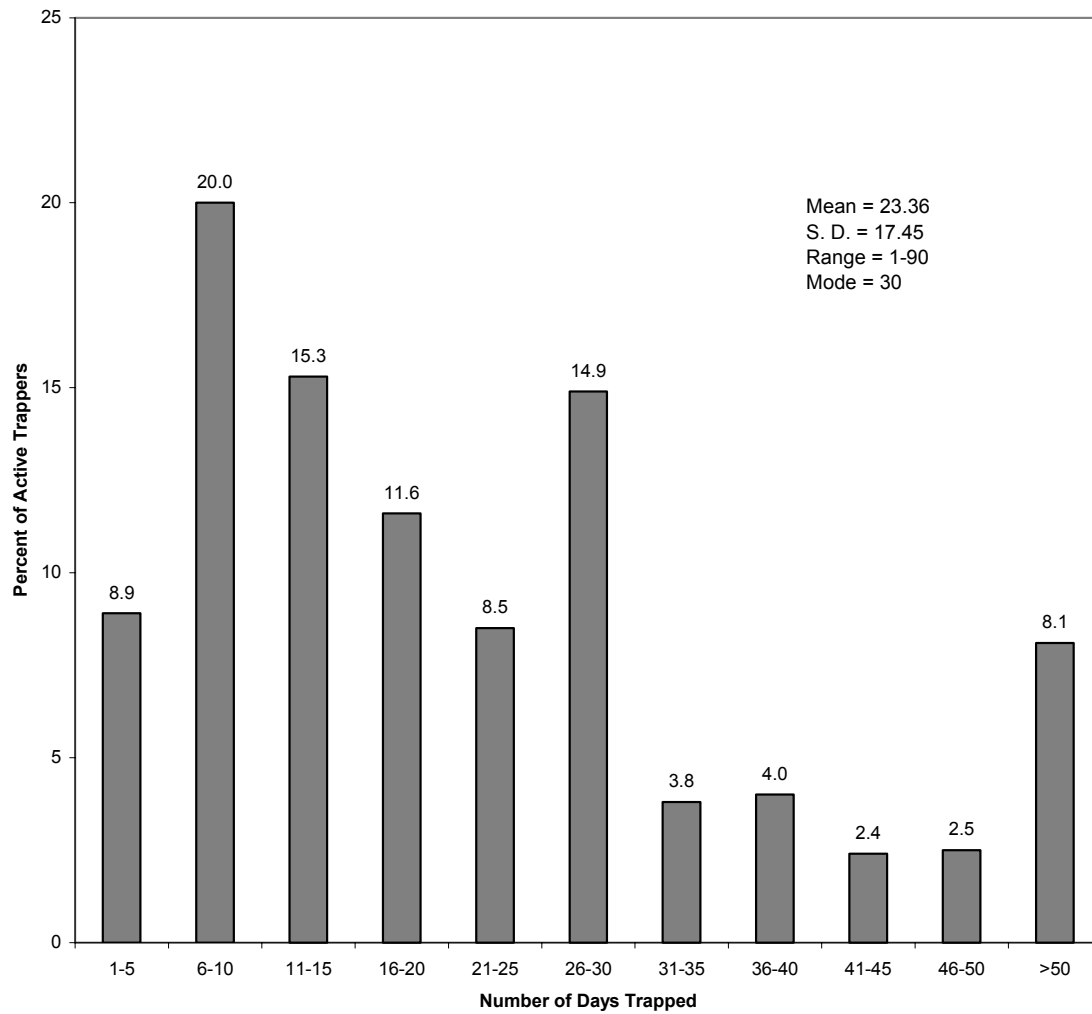


Figure 2. Distribution of days of trapping by trappers in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=471).

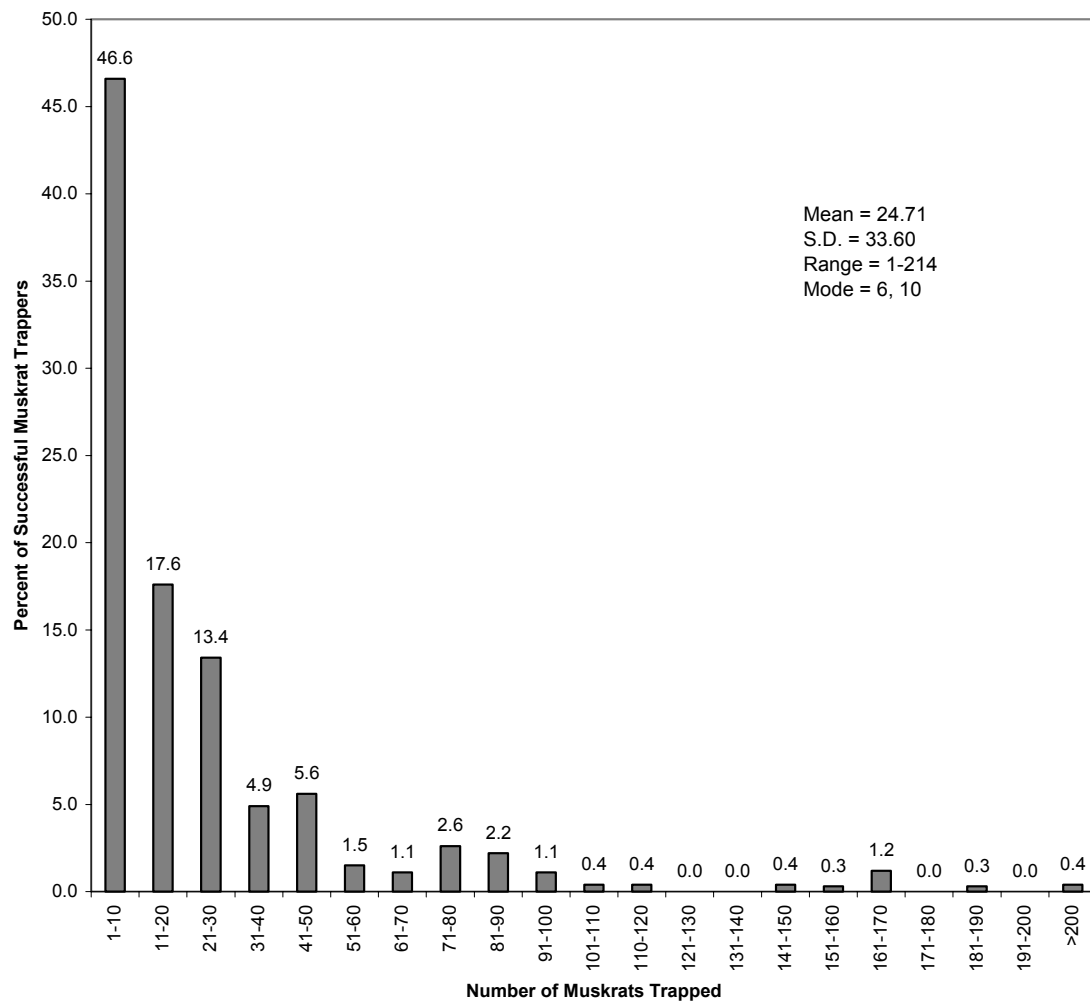


Figure 3. Distribution of the number of muskrats trapper per successful muskrat trapper in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=268).

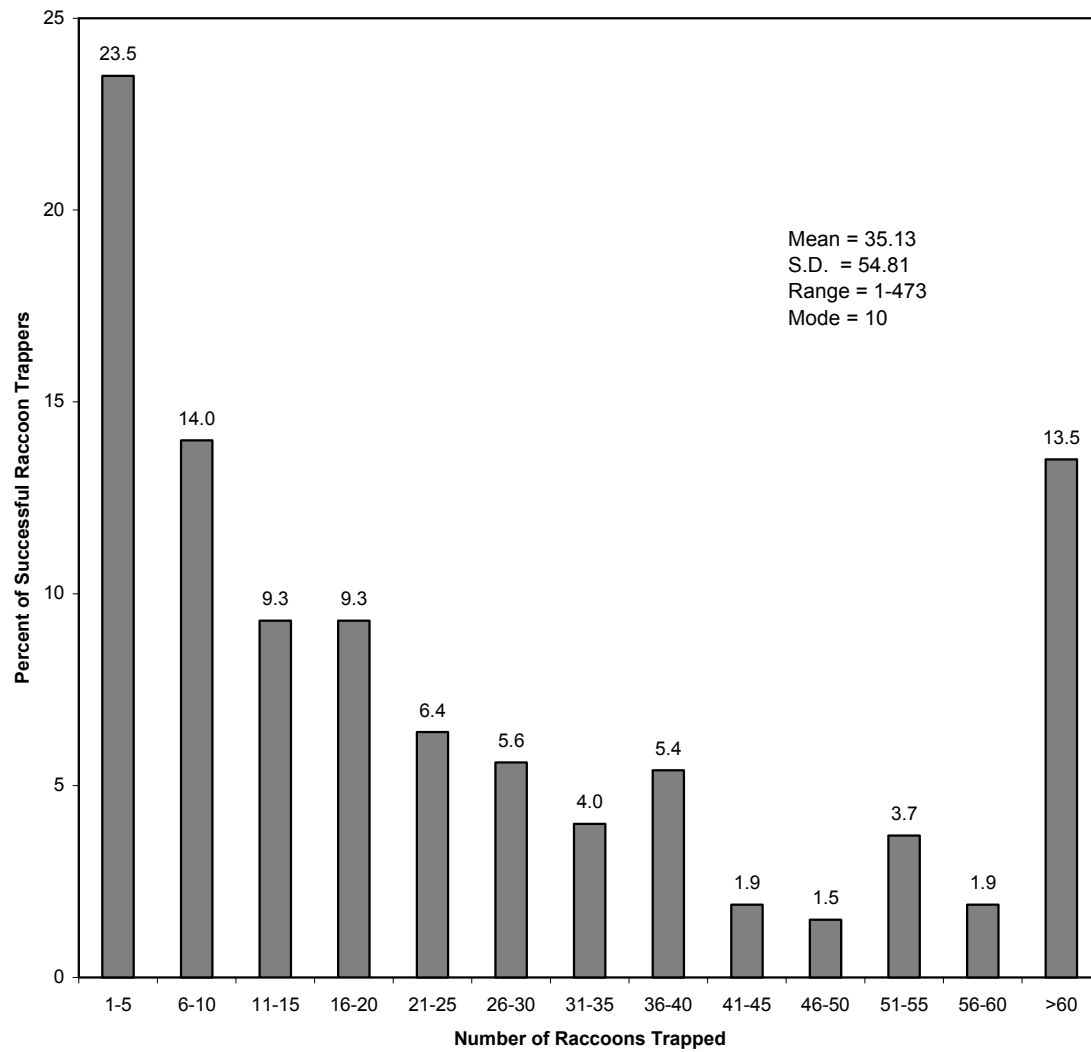


Figure 4. Distribution of the number of raccoons trapped per successful raccoon trapper in Illinois, 2000-01 season (n=408).



Appendix A

Section 2, Question 12. Reasons why trapping effort has increased.

Reason	Number of Respondents
Nuisance trapping	5
Became a better trapper/developed better methods	2
The love of trapping, enjoyment	12
Goals set	1
Transportation to trapping areas	1
Masters research on beaver	1
More personal income	1

Section 2, Question 13. Reasons why trapping effort has decreased.

Reason	Number of Respondents
Slowing down/getting older	10
Too many new homes and pets in my regular trapping area	1
Weather	9
Lack of fur buyers	2
Not enough timber	1
Other interests	2
High gas prices	1
Farmers applying chemicals are killing wildlife	1
Trespassers who steal traps	1
Activists	1

Section 2 Question 14. What is the single greatest problem that contributes to the decline in trapping?

Problem	Number of Respondents
Good economy	1
Outfitting	5
Weather	3
Young people don't want to trap/have no interest in it	8
Unleashed dogs	1
Sickness/disease	3
High gas prices	2
Poor regulations and laws	3
Farmers destroying habitat	2
Negative publicity	1

Appendix B

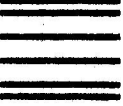
Furbearer trapping in Illinois, 2000-2001.


Species	Trapping Seasons	
	Northern Zone	Southern Zone
Muskrat, mink, raccoon, Opossum, striped skunk, Weasel	5 Nov. – 15 Jan. (72) ^a	10 Nov. – 20 Jan. (72)
Beaver	5 Nov. – 31 Mar. (147) ^b	10 Nov. – 31 Mar. (142)
Red fox, gray fox, coyote, badger	10 Nov. – 20 Jan. (72)	10 Nov. – 20 Jan. (72)

^aNumbers in parentheses are season lengths in days.

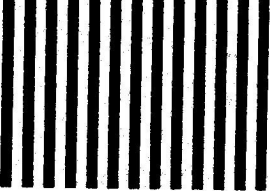
^bThose portions of Carroll, Whiteside, and Rock Island counties lying west of Illinois Rt. 84 from Interstate 80 north of the JoDaviess county line were open to beaver trapping 5 Nov. 2000-15 Jan. 2001 only.

Appendix C





No Postage
Necessary
If Mailed in the
United States



BUSINESS REPLY MAIL
FIRST CLASS PERMIT NO. 2032 • SPRINGFIELD, IL
 Postage Will Be Paid By Addressee
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Wildlife Resources Division
Furbearer Section
P.O. BOX 19225
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS 62794-9961

TO ISSUING CLERK:

**COMPLETE THIS FORM AND MAIL
IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF
FIRST LICENSE IN BOOK**

The Department of Natural Resources is conducting a survey to estimate the fur harvest in Illinois. To effect this, we need the names and addresses of part of our licensed trappers. Please print at the bottom of this page, in the space provided, name, mailing address including zip code, and county of residence of the person who purchases the first license in this book. Please detach the next page and give to license purchaser.

Thank you for your cooperation. **Please note** reverse side is Business Reply postal card, perforated at binding for removing.

**MAIL IMMEDIATELY UPON SALE OF LICENSE
TRAPPING (2000 SERIES)**
Please Print Plainly

Name
Street Address, R.R. and Box Number
City and State
Zip Code
County of Residence

Name/address card that was issued to license vendors for conducting the 2000-01 post-season Illinois Trapper Survey.

Appendix D

**DETACH THIS PAGE AND GIVE TO
PERSON WHO PURCHASES FIRST
LICENSE IN BOOK**

Dear Trapper:

Please keep an accurate record of the **number of days you had traps set, the average number and kinds of traps you used during the season, the number of furbearers you caught in traps, what county you trapped in most, and the number and kinds of pelts you sold in Illinois and Out of State.**

You may be one of the selected trappers contacted at the close of the trapping season and provided a form to return to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Thanks for your cooperation.

THE BACK SIDE OF THIS CARD MAY BE USED FOR RECORD KEEPING.

Number of TRAPS I had set: _____

Number of DAYS I had traps set: _____

FURBEARERS CAUGHT IN TRAPS: _____

Species	Total Number Caught	Number Sold	
		In Illinois	Out-of- State
Muskrat			
Mink			
Raccoon			
Opossum			
Beaver			
Red Fox			
Gray Fox			
Coyote			
Striped Skunk			
Weasel			

Other Animals Caught: _____

Information/activity record card that was issued to trappers for conducting the 2000-01 post-season Illinois Trapper Survey.

Illinois Trapper Survey

2000 – 2001 Season



ALL RESPONSES ARE CONFIDENTIAL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION!

Postage-paid return envelope provided

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Wildlife Resources
and the
Illinois Natural History Survey

Please take 15 minutes of your time to complete this questionnaire. Your responses will tell us more about Illinois trappers and help us manage our fur resources.

The Department of Natural Resources is requesting disclosure of information that is necessary to accomplish the statutory purpose as outlined under the Illinois Compiled Statutes, The Wildlife Code, Chapter 520. Disclosure of information is voluntary.

Section 1. Trapping Harvest Complete **EACH BLANK** for all species trapped in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season. Report **only** your **personal catch**. If you trapped with a partner, list only your half of the catch.

1. Did you set any traps for furbearers in Illinois during the 2000-2001 trapping season?

_____ Yes

_____ No (Please go to **Section 3**)

Species	Total Trapped	Number Sold in Illinois	Number Sold or Shipped Out of State	Number Not Sold
Muskrat	_____	_____	_____	_____
Mink	_____	_____	_____	_____
Raccoon	_____	_____	_____	_____
Opossum	_____	_____	_____	_____
Red Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Gray Fox	_____	_____	_____	_____
Beaver	_____	_____	_____	_____
Skunk	_____	_____	_____	_____
Weasel	_____	_____	_____	_____
Coyote	_____	_____	_____	_____
Badger	_____	_____	_____	_____

2. How would you describe Illinois furbearer populations for the following species during the 2000-2001 season compared to the 1999-2000 season? (Circle the number for your response)

	Higher than last year	Same as last year	Lower than last year	Don't Know
Muskrat	1	2	3	4
Raccoon	1	2	3	4
Red Fox	1	2	3	4
Beaver	1	2	3	4
Coyote	1	2	3	4

3. Have you seen a river otter or otter sign in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season?

_____ Yes

If "Yes," what county?

_____ No

4. Have you seen a bobcat or bobcat sign in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season?

_____ Yes If "Yes," what county? _____
 _____ No

Section 2. Trapping Activity Please answer the following questions about your trapping activities in Illinois.

1. In which county did you do **most** of your trapping? _____ county

2. When do you do **most** of your trapping? (Please check only one response)

_____ weekends
 _____ weekdays
 _____ both weekend and weekdays equally

3. How many days (or nights) did you have traps set? _____ days (or nights)

4. Did you trap throughout the entire season?

_____ Yes
 _____ No If not, why? _____

5. How many of the following types of traps did you use on your trap line during the 2000-2001 season?

<u>Type</u>	<u>Number</u>
Conibear or killer-type traps	_____
Steel jaw leg-hold traps	_____
Soft-catch or padded leg-hold traps	_____
Cage-type live traps	_____
Snares	_____
Other type (Please identify): _____	_____

6. How many days did you spend involved in the following activities related to trapping?

Scouting for furbearer sign	_____ days
Maintaining trapping equipment	_____ days
Learning or practicing new trapping techniques	_____ days

7. When you trap (setting and checking traps) do you usually do so:

_____ by yourself
 _____ with a friend
 _____ with a family member

8. Did you attend any trapping association meetings or conventions during the past 12 months?

_____ Yes If "Yes," how many did you attend? _____ meetings/conventions

_____ No

9. Have you ever taken a formal trapper's education course?

_____ Yes

_____ No

9a. If "Yes," why did you take a trapper's education course? (Please check one)

_____ It was required

_____ I wanted to take it

_____ Other reason (Please identify): _____

10. Have you introduced another person into trapping in the past 5 years?

_____ Yes

_____ No

10a. If "Yes," was this person a:

_____ friend

_____ member of your immediate family

_____ member of your extended family

10b. Was this person a youth under 19 years of age?

_____ Yes

_____ No

11. In **the last five years**, has your total trapping effort:

_____ Increased (please go to **question 12**)

_____ Stayed the same (please go to **question 14**)

_____ Decreased (please go to **question 13**)

12. If your total trapping effort **increased the last five years**, has it been due to (please check all that apply):

_____ increased free time

_____ more furbearers

_____ the extra income trapping brings

_____ trapping partners

_____ better seasons/regulations

_____ availability of land

_____ better health/fitness

_____ better equipment

_____ other (please identify): _____

12a. If your trapping effort **increased**, which of the following do you attempt to trap more now than 5 years ago?

_____ raccoons

_____ coyotes

_____ foxes

_____ muskrats

_____ mink

_____ beaver

_____ other (Please identify): _____

13. If your total trapping effort **decreased**, has it been due to (please check all that apply):

_____ lack of time

_____ no one to trap with

_____ low fur prices

_____ seasons too short

_____ lack of interest

_____ not enough furbearers

_____ too many regulations

_____ too much equipment needed

_____ no land to trap on

_____ health problems

_____ lack of financial resources for equipment

_____ other (please identify): _____

13a. If your trapping effort **decreased**, which of the following do you attempt to trap less now than 5 years ago?

_____ raccoons

_____ coyotes

_____ foxes

_____ muskrats

_____ mink

_____ beaver

_____ other (please identify): _____

14. In your opinion, what do you feel is the **single greatest problem** that contributes to the decline in trapping?
(Choose one)

☐ not enough land available for trapping
☐ low prices for pelts
☐ declining fur bearer populations
☐ anti-trapping activists
☐ land converted to other uses (housing developments, etc.)
☐ not enough time
☐ competing recreation uses of public land
☐ other (please identify): _____

15. Which of the following species do you enjoy trapping most?

☐ raccoons
☐ coyotes
☐ foxes
☐ muskrats
☐ mink
☐ beaver
☐ other (please identify): _____

Section 3. Furbearer Hunting Please answer the following questions related to hunting furbearers with a gun in Illinois during 2000-2001.

1. Did you **hunt furbearers** with a gun and/or dogs in Illinois during the 2000-2001 season?

☐ Yes ☐ No (Please go to **Section 4**)

- 1a. If "Yes," please give the number of each species taken **by hunting**:

☐ Raccoon ☐ Red Fox ☐ Gray Fox
☐ Coyote ☐ Skunk ☐ Opossum

2. If you **hunted coyotes** during the 2000-2001 season, how many days did you use the following methods?

Predator call (electronic or mouth) ☐ days or nights
 Dogs ☐ days or nights
 Tracking and stalking (no dogs or calls) ☐ days or nights
 Other (Please identify): _____ ☐ days or nights

3. Have you been denied access to hunt coyotes on land you previously hunted?

_____ Yes

If "Yes," what county: _____

_____ No

4. Do you own any coyote hounds?

_____ Yes How many hounds? _____

_____ No

Section 4. Trapper Information The following questions are important to help us understand more about the people involved in trapping in Illinois. Please tell us something about yourself by responding to the following questions. All responses will be kept confidential and are completely anonymous.

1. How many years have you trapped in Illinois? _____ years

2. How old were you when you started trapping? _____ years

3. How often do you buy a trapping permit?

_____ every year _____ most years _____ some but not most years

4. Do you belong to any trapper associations or organizations?

_____ Yes (Please identify): _____

_____ No

5. Do other members of your family trap? _____ Yes _____ No

6. How many years have you lived in Illinois? _____ years

7. What is your county of residence? _____ County

8. What is your gender? _____ Male _____ Female

9. What is your approximate total (gross) household income?

_____ less than 15,000 _____ \$45,000 to \$59,999

_____ \$15,000 to \$29,999 _____ \$60,000 to \$74,999

_____ \$30,000 to \$44,999 _____ over \$75,000

10. Please give your age. _____ years

COMMENTS

RETURN ENVELOPE IS PROVIDED – POSTAGE-PAID

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND ASSISTANCE!

Your input will help us understand more about hunters and hunting in Illinois.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources receives federal assistance and therefore must comply with federal anti-discrimination laws. In compliance with the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Constitution, Title VI of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act as amended, and the U.S. Constitution, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or disability. If you believe you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, please contact the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, Department of Natural Resources, 524 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62701-1787, (217) 782-7616 or the officer of Human Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D.C. 20240.



Illinois

Department of Natural Resources

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62707-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

Dear Trapper,

You are one of a select group of Illinois trappers asked to provide information about your trapping activities during the 2000-2001 trapping season. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2000-2001 trapping season.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

This survey is limited to those trappers selected. Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. A stamped envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources



Illinois

Department of Natural Resources

<http://dnr.state.il.us>

524 South Second Street, Springfield, Illinois 62707-1787

George H. Ryan, Governor • Brent Manning, Director

Dear Trapper,

You recently received a survey questionnaire requesting information about your trapping activities during the 2000-2001 trapping season. We have not received your completed survey questionnaire at this time. If you recently returned your questionnaire, we thank you. Perhaps you misplaced the first questionnaire mailed to you. If so, we have enclosed a second one for you. Please complete and return the enclosed questionnaire about your trapping harvest and activities in Illinois during the 2000-2001 trapping season.

The information you and other selected trappers furnish our biologists is vital for proper furbearer management and allows us to safeguard furbearer populations while maximizing trapping opportunities.

Please take 15 minutes to complete the enclosed questionnaire. A stamped envelope is provided for returning the questionnaire to us.

Thank you for your time and assistance.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey M. Ver Steeg, Chief
Division of Wildlife Resources